Ordinance to stop repayment of farmers loans

3345. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Farmers Commission of Agriculture Experts in Andhra Pradesh has urged the Central Government to issue an Ordinance during the coming months, for stopping repayment of all loans borrowed from private financers or Government institutions by farmers, who have suffered due to crop failures, drought conditions and supply of spurious seeds, fertilizers and pesticides; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) As reported by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, they are not aware of any such Commission.

(b) Does not arise.

Krishi Vigyan Mela

†3346. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 'Krishi Vigyan Mela' organised recently by ICAR, failed due to lack of interest by the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Indian farmers have rejected the bio-cultivation considering it hazardous; and

(d) if so, the details of measures being taken by Government in the interests of farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The annual Krishi Vigyan Mela was organised recently by Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) during March 14-16, 2002. About 15,000 farmers, development officials, extension functionaries, besides students and entrepreneurs, participated in the Mela.

The major attractions were display and sale of technology products and farm literatures, farmer-scientists interactions, Mahila Kisan Gosthi, and field visits.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Indian farmers have not rejected bio-cultivation. In fact, the sustenance in agriculture of a large number of farmers depends on bio-cultivation with no or low external input. The measures taken up in the interest of the farmers include strengthening research on plant breeding and biotechnology for development of varieties resistant to pests and diseases, and formulating package of practices for Integrated Pest Management and Integrated Nutrient Management for various crops.

Eriophyid mite disease of coconut in Karnataka

3347. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how many coconut trees are affected due to Eriophyid mite in Karnataka;

(b) whether the State Government has sent any proposal for financial assistance to control Eriophyid mite on coconut palm;

(c) if so, the amount sought for; and

(d) the amount released so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The expert team constituted by Government of India to conduct roving survey, visited mite infested areas in Karnataka and reported 185 lakh mite affected coconut palms in the State.

(b) and (c) During 2001-2002, Government of Karnataka submitted a proposal to the Coconut Development Board seeking financial assistance of Rs. 166 crores for control of Eriophyid mite of coconut.

(d) An amount of Rs. 1350.40 lakhs has been released so far to the Government of Karnataka during the period 1998-99 to 2001-2002.

Field trials of Hybrid Transgenic Mustard

3348. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have given clearance for large scale multilocational field trials and commercialization of hybrid transgenic mustard;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the agronomic performance and bio-safety aspects of the hybrid have been evaluated; and